

REMARKS

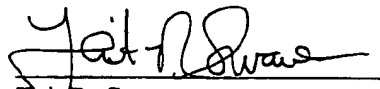
In the Office Action, the Examiner restricted claims 1-74 to one of two groups and to one of ten species corresponding to the figures. Specifically, the Examiner provided the following groups: (Group I) claims 1-52 drawn to a mechanical linkage; and (Group II) claims 53-74 drawn to the method of forming a modular linkage assembly. The Examiner further indicated that claims 1, 32, and 53 are generic to ten distinct species corresponding to Figures 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, and 16.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's reasons for restriction, Applicants elects to prosecute claims 1-52 corresponding to Group I. Therefore, Applicants canceled claims 53-74 without prejudice for possible inclusion in a divisional application. In addition, Applicants elect the species corresponding to Figure 8.

If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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